Regulation of post delivery through couriers

2742. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any law to regulate the delivery of courier post by private carriers or the Government Post Office;

(b) whether it is a fact that courier post is being delivered at residence with great harassment to the general public;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the carrier messengers insist that the recipients personally sign receipt of such letters and they are also disturbed regularly, frequently without any impediment;

(d) what steps Government would take to ensure that courier letters need not be personally received at residence by the addressee if he does not want such delivery; and

(e) the reasons for Government ignoring this problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) The delivery of courier (*i.e.* letter) post by private couriers has no legal backing under the existing Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

As far as delivery of courier (*i.e.* letter post including speed post letters) by the Government Post Offices is concerned, this is in accordance with the Indian Post Office Rules, 1933 framed under the provisions of the Indian Post Office Act, 1898.

(b) and (c) No survey has been conducted by the Department of Posts in these two areas with regard to private couriers.

(d) and (e) The Government has prepared a proposal to amend the Indian Post Office Act, 1898 and placed the same on public domain (http://www.indiapost.gov.in) for calling for the views and comments thereon of all concerned. The draft proposal envisages registration of courier companies and setting-up of Mail Regulatory and Development Authority to regulate the mail sector.

However, the addressee of speed post articles offered for delivery by a post office may refuse to accept its delivery or/and may also authorize another person known to the post office to take delivery on his/her behalf.